

**Commissioner Terry Holliday's Report
for
September 12, 2013 Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting**

Current Issues:

Update on districts passing policies in response to SB 97 and "Blitz to 96"

As of the submission of this report to the Council on Postsecondary Education, 124 local boards have adopted a policy to raise the compulsory school age to 18 and submitted the required paperwork. Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff have monitored and verified this number through ASSIST, which produces a time/date stamp once all required steps are completed. KDE will continue to receive notification from districts once they pass the policies and submit the necessary documentation.

The 96-district total necessary to meet the 55% district requirement for making the implementation of a policy raising the age to 18 mandatory for the 2017-18 school year was reached on July 9 at 12:46 p.m. ET when Lewis County became district number 96. The first 96 districts will receive a \$10,000 planning grant as part of "Blitz to 96" initiative to help ensure they will have the programs in place to meet the needs of the affected students.

Update on the superintendent evaluation process

On July 10, I sent a letter to all local board chairs and superintendents detailing the steps that need to be completed before the end of the year regarding superintendents' evaluations. It also included the superintendent evaluation process for them to follow beginning in the spring/summer of 2014 and thereafter until the new superintendent evaluation system is fully implemented.

The letter was a follow-up to the April 29 Superintendents' Webcast in order to provide clarity to the content that was discussed.

Additionally, as part of the July 25 Superintendents' Webcast, KDE Chief of Staff Tommy Floyd covered this topic with an opportunity for superintendents to ask questions about the process. Tommy and I will continue to communicate regularly with superintendents on this process as the system moves toward piloting and implementation.

Kentucky Board of Education Meeting August Agenda Items:

Board honors Governor and First Lady

As part of its August 8th regular meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education honored Governor Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear for their work on Senate Bill 97 (raising the compulsory attendance age to 18) and the 'Blitz to 96' initiative (focused on reaching the 96-district total required to make mandatory for all districts the passing of a policy raising the compulsory attendance age to 18 by 2017-18). The Governor and First Lady attended the meeting and were presented with a framed copy of the following resolution that was approved by the board:

Resolution
“Reaching the 96-District Target and Beyond Required by Senate Bill 97”
by the
Kentucky Board of Education

- Whereas,** During the 2013 legislative session, outstanding collaboration occurred between Governor Steven L. Beshear, First Lady Jane Beshear, the General Assembly, Commissioner Terry Holliday, the Kentucky Board of Education, and other education partners resulting in the adoption of Senate Bill 97 so that the compulsory school attendance age would be raised to 18 in the 2015-16 school year for those school districts whose local board of education enacts such a policy; and
- Whereas,** Governor Beshear, First Lady Beshear and Commissioner Holliday launched the “Blitz to 96” initiative to encourage early adoption of such a policy by local boards of education in order to reach the 55 percent of school districts required for it to become mandatory for all districts to implement a policy within four years; and
- Whereas,** Local boards of education and school districts responded courageously and expeditiously to the “Blitz to 96” initiative resulting in reaching the 96-district target in 14 days; and
- Whereas,** Even after the required 96-district target was reached and planning grant dollars were obligated, as of today, 24 additional local boards of education and school districts have adopted such a policy, which brings the overall total to 120 districts, signaling to students that nobody is giving up on them and a high school diploma is important to their success; and
- Whereas,** In addition to the local school boards and districts that are to be commended for their dedication to ensuring students persist to graduation, staff of the Governor’s Office and Kentucky Department of Education demonstrated outstanding support to ensure the Senate Bill 97 effort is successful.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kentucky Board of Education extends its extraordinary gratitude to Governor Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear for their perseverance and determination to ensure passage of Senate Bill 97 and the implementation of the “Blitz to 96” initiative with the result being that hope now exists for ALL young people to graduate college- and career-ready and experience a successful future.

***Done in the city of Frankfort, this 8th day
of August, in the year Two Thousand and
Thirteen.***

702 KAR 1:115, Annual in-service training of district board members revised

In order to strengthen local district board members’ knowledge of ethics, school finance and the superintendent evaluation process, revisions were made to 702 KAR 1:115, Annual in-service

training of district board members. The mandatory training requirements as revised by the changes to the regulation are found below:

Experience Level	Current Annual Requirement	Proposed Ethics Training Requirement	Proposed School Finance Training Requirement	Proposed Superintendent Evaluation Training Requirement
0 – 3 years	12 hours	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 3 hours annually	Minimum 1 hour annually
4 – 7 years	8 hours	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 2 hours annually	Minimum 1 hour annually
8 years or more	4 hours	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 1 hour biennially

For more information on the revisions to 702 KAR 1:115, contact Hiren Desai at (502) 564-1976, Ext. 4302 or via e-mail at hiren.desai@education.ky.gov.

Statement of Consideration on science standards approved

The Kentucky Board of Education approved a 140-page Statement of Consideration (SOC) for 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards that dealt with the 4,092 comments (both pro and con) received at the public hearing on incorporation of the new science standards within the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. The SOC responded to all of the comments and recommended no changes to the regulation. It can be accessed at the following link (<http://portal.ksba.org/public/Meeting.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&PublicMeetingID=9441&AgencyTypeID=1>) under Agenda Item XII.A.

The regulation will now proceed through the legislative committee review process before becoming effective.

For more information on the new science standards, contact Felicia Smith at (502) 564-9850, Ext. 4151 or via e-mail at Felicia.smith@education.ky.gov.

Board elects new officers for 2013-14

Upon the recommendation of its Nominating Committee, chaired by Jay Parrent of Princeton, the Kentucky Board of Education unanimously elected Roger Marcum of Bardstown as its new chair for 2013-14. He has served as vice-chair for the last two years.

Additionally, Brigitte Ramsey of Falmouth was elected as vice-chair. Ramsey previously served as the board's Management Committee chair.

When the current chair, David Karem, handed over the gavel to Marcum, he was honored with a standing ovation for his outstanding leadership as the board's chair for the past three years, the maximum term allowed by the board's bylaws.

For more information on board officers, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, Ext. 4840 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.

Next KBE Meeting: October 8, 2013